



Summer 2010

Contributions

...making a difference

BMH to Celebrate 25th and Final Clambake & Auction

To celebrate 25 years of BMH Clambakes and the many volunteers who helped make this event successful for so long, a gala retrospective is in the making for Saturday, July 17th.

Back in 1986, the Southern Vermont Health Foundation (now known as the Development Office) hosted 261 people at the very first BMH Clambake. Susan Fenn, the first Development Director, started a tradition of building community involvement by inviting Brattleboro area residents to come together on the BMH campus for this new event. Three years later, in

1989, the BMH Auxiliary joined the Foundation as co-hosts starting the auctions which became a favorite component of the evening.

"Pliny and I so looked forward to the BMH Clambake every year, it was definitely one of the highlights of the summer season. We very much enjoyed the comradery of many friends throughout the evening and we were always happy to support the hospital of which we are so proud." ~ Fran Burrows



Pliny and Fran Burrows

Also in 1989, with Dick Lane and Chuck Gorsuch pounding the pavement in search of local businesses willing to place ads, the first program book was conceived. Skip Morrow, author and illustrator of *I Hate Cats* and many other books, donated a whimsical lobster logo designed for BMH's exclusive use on invitations, posters and program books. Morrow's clever design was also silk-screened onto white bib-top aprons which were sold at the Clambake & Auction that same year.

For our 25th and Final Clambake, the Development Office has resurrected the bib-top apron, which can

be purchased for \$20. And again Skip has kindly autographed them, but this time each apron will include one of his amusing books in the pocket! Several other highlights from the past will be incorporated into this final event and you do not want to miss any of it.

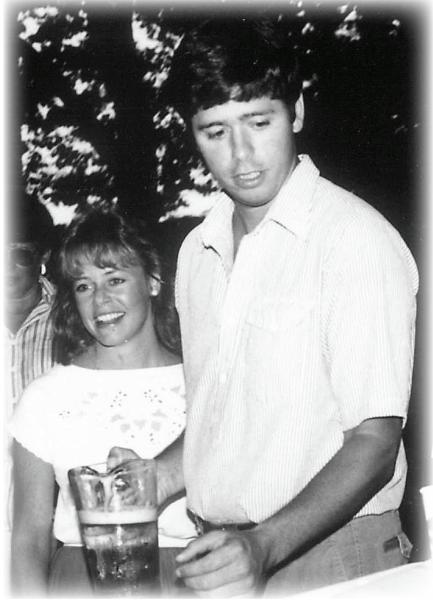
It is bittersweet to bring this 25-year tradition to completion. Thanks to the generous support of local business sponsorships, advertisements and auction donations, as well as the thousands of event attendees, **we have raised over \$800,000 for our hospital!**

And looking ahead, BMH is developing new plans for building on the strong community support generated by 25 years of clambakes—support which makes us an exceptional and truly community hospital.

"Before we were married, Tom's idea of a fun date was working the BMH Clambake. Little did I know that this would be the beginning of a 25-year tradition—for Tom and me, and the Clambake!" ~ Nancy Heydinger



Skip Morrow recently autographing Clambake logo aprons.



Nancy and Tom Heydinger



BMH Donor Profiles - Pam & Lawrin Crispe

Pam Crispe has volunteered her time and energy to nearly every one of BMH's Annual Clambake and Auctions, so it is bittersweet for her to acknowledge that this year's will be the final of a 25-year run. She defines herself as a "project person," and the clambake was a project to which she could readily devote her energies.

"People give money to the hospital because they feel they've done a service for them, but people volunteer because they like the people at the hospital," says Pam. "I volunteered many years solely because I liked the people I was working with and the way that BMH treated everyone. I think that's indicative of why BMH has such solid volunteer services."

Pam often conscripted her husband, Lawrin, into service at the clambake. Lawrin's family hails from "up the valley," in Newfane, but his roots as a Brattleboro attorney trace back to his grandfather, Chief Superior Court Judge Orrin Hughes. The law firm, Crispe & Crispe, originated with Lawrin and his father, Luke, and continues now with Lawrin's son, Spencer.

While he especially enjoyed his role as a bartender, Lawrin has many fond memories of past clambakes. "I'd be working on a Saturday, and I'd get a call saying 'get up here immediately, it's going to rain,'" he recalls. "So myself and the other husbands would go up there and attach these flaps to the sides of the tents. I remember one year we spent two hours putting them on and it never rained."

"Then you ended up taking them down because it got too hot," Pam laughs. "Another year it rained so hard we were there with broom handles pushing up on the tent roof to clear the water. But we always had so much fun. I remember Sunday morning, after it was all over Susan Fenn, Janie Sherwin, and I would all be sitting there and feeling really good about its success."



Pam and Lawrin Crispe

All four of Pam and Lawrin's children (Spencer and Ashley Crispe, Jim Simson and Katie Simson Norfleet) were born and raised in Brattleboro schools and all but Spencer now reside out of state. Lawrin knocks on wood when he says that the family hasn't had to use the hospital services, but his work has fostered a close relationship with many of the hospital doctors, and he himself served on the BMH Board of Directors for a time.

"When you really appreciate what someone is doing and their skill, you say, 'hey, this is an organization that I feel good about getting behind,' Lawrin says, noting that they always contributed to the clambake in addition to volunteering. "There are a variety of doctors there that I have a great deal of respect for and we felt it was worth our time to support their effort."

A BMH CLAMBAKE KEEPSAKE

It has been a wonderful 25 years with lots of laughs, memories, and dollars raised for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

Help celebrate these 25 years and support BMH by purchasing a commemorative Clambake & Auction apron.

Aprons are autographed by cartoonist, author, and lobster logo designer Skip Morrow and contain a complimentary Skip Morrow book.

Aprons cost \$20 and quantities are limited. For aprons or to purchase a ticket call (802) 257-8314.

Help us "net" some clams!



Development Office Staff (l. to r.) Tracy Boucher, Ellen Smith, Barbara Henry, and Brenda Hodges

The Times They Are A-Changin' *by: Joseph F. Cook*

For those of us who work in the estate planning community, change usually takes place at a glacial pace. Recent and proposed changes in estate taxes at both the Federal and state levels now being debated in Congress and the Legislature will affect a number of Vermont residents.

Estate taxes are not a concern for a number of our clients, given the extent of their assets but for others the proposed changes will have a significant impact. Under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, the amount that is exempt from Federal estate taxes rose to \$3.5 million last year. Because of the sunset provision of the Act there is no Federal estate tax this year. The amount that is exempt from Federal estate taxes is scheduled to revert to \$1.0 million next year. Last December the House of Representatives voted to permanently extend the \$3.5 million Federal estate tax exemption. The Senate was preoccupied with the debate over health care and dissension over the "death tax" and never addressed the matter. Although there is speculation that retroactive legislation will reinstate the \$3.5 million exemption back to January 1, 2010, there is some question as to the constitutionality of such legislation. Ten years ago few would have predicted the uncertainty of the current scenario and the inability of Congress to address this matter.

Last year the Vermont Legislature, over the Governor's veto, imposed a Vermont estate tax that was retroactive

to January 1, 2009 upon individuals owning more than \$2 million. We thereby joined 16 other states which had already decoupled themselves from the Federal estate tax. If the Federal estate tax exemption is reimposed at \$3.5 million, wealthy Vermont couples will need to decide whether to pay \$229,000 in Vermont estate taxes upon the death of the first spouse, or an additional \$675,000 in Federal estate taxes upon the death of the second spouse. Tax policy has long favored deferring estate taxes until the death of the second spouse. There is an effort underway to implement such a change in the current legislative session. Some have expressed concern that relatively affluent income taxpayers whom Vermont can least afford to lose may feel compelled to move to states that do not impose an estate tax in order to save their children what could be a substantial Vermont estate tax.

In light of the uncertainty of proposed changes at the Federal and state level, the best advice that we can give to those planning their estates is simply to stay tuned. The times are most definitely a-changin'!

Joseph F. Cook is a partner in the Brattleboro firm of Corum Mabie Cook Prodan Angell and Secrest, PLC. Joe is the president of the Connecticut Valley Estate Planning Council, a member of the BMH Planned Giving Advisory Council and the Putney Bicycle Club, and serves on the Committee of Rules of Probate Procedure for Probate Court of the Vermont Supreme Court.

BMH Celebrated National Doctors' Day

Brattleboro Memorial Hospital celebrated National Doctors' Day on March 30th to honor area physicians for the wonderful work they do in and for our community. The hospital sent a request out to the

community seeking tributes from BMH patients honoring their doctors.

We received over 120 responses from patients and employees. The tributes testify to

the great skill, dedication and compassion of our physicians. Here is a sampling of the comments we received for this occasion:

"My Doctor Rocks! Dr. Glick, you're the Best."

"For the past 36 years Dr. H. Dean Bresnahan has faithfully been our family physician. We attribute our good health to

his vigilant care and decisions. He is always there and takes the time to listen to us. God Bless Dr. Bresnahan for his dedication in caring for us."

"Dr. Gadowski was available when my 17 year old was in the emergency room in January. Not only did he save her life but managed her care in a manner which limited secondary infections, side effects and complications. During the scariest time of a mom's life he was professional, direct, reassuring and caring to both his patient and her mom."

Thank you to all who responded with such kind, encouraging words. One doc said that the celebration, with the tributes as the focal point, "made us feel special". Brattleboro is truly fortunate to have these dedicated people providing exceptional care for our community.





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Best patient care experience- every patient; every time; Best place to work- employees / volunteers / medical staff

Touch a Truck



Save the Date
Saturday, September 11, 2010
from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM
BMH parking lot



Join us for another Technology Tour
Behind the door look at
BMH Oncology Department
June 8th from 5:15 – 6:30 PM
Meeting in the lobby of the Richards Building

Looking for an opportunity to recognize
someone who has passed away or is special in
your life and at the same time a way to support
BMH, your community hospital? There are
some renovations happening at BMH and a
couple of naming opportunities. Call Ellen
Smith in the development office at (802) 257-
8314 to learn more.